

Message Text

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16

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 EB-11 AID-20 TRSE-00

OMB-01 COME-00 /181 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:HJCOHEN:OSM

APPROVED BY AF:DDNEWSOM

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R 032302Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197242

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, RW

SUBJECT: NSEKALIJE-NEWSOM CONVERSATION

1. RWANDAN FOREIGN MINISTER NSEKALIJE CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM OCTOBER 2. OFFICE CALL WAS FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON HOSTED BY NEWSOM.

2. NSEKALIJE SAID HE WISHED TO TRANSMIT MESSAGE FROM RWANDAN CHIEF OF STATE WHICH MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS: GOR FEELS RELATIONS WITH USG HAVE BEEN MUCH TOO INACTIVE LATELY. GOR HAS NOTHING BUT WARMEST FEELINGS TOWARD USG AND SEES NO REASON WHY RELATIONS SHOULD NOT BE MORE PRODUCTIVE, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. GOR WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT HAS TO BE DONE TO "UNFREEZE RELATIONS." IF THERE IS ANYTHING PREVIOUS OR PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS DONE, OR FAILED TO DO, WHICH IS CAUSING RELATIONS TO BE ON DEAD CENTER, GOR WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT IT SO THAT APPROPRIATE ADJUSTMENTS CAN BE MADE.

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3. NEWSOM REPLIED AS FOLLOWS: USG RECIPROCATES GOR'S WARM

FEELINGS, AND WE SEE NO REASON WHY USG AND GOR SHOULD NOT HAVE EXCELLENT RELATIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, HOWEVER,

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR OUR FRIENDS TO UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE COMPLEX INTERNAL PROBLEMS WHICH MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR USG TO REACT POSITIVELY TO SOME REQUESTS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION. USING PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR USG TO SURFACE KIGALI-SHANGUGU ROAD AS EXAMPLE, NEWSOM POINTED OUT THE BUDGETARY AND POLICY INHIBITIONS INVOLVED IN SUCH A PROJECT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE TOURISM STUDY COMMISSIONED BY USAID EARLIER THIS YEAR IS JUST NOW BECOMING AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW, AND WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO OFFER OUR COMMENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. NSEKALIJE SAID NEWSOM'S RESPONSE WAS POSITIVE, AND GOR LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUATION OF DIALOGUE. RUSH

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